

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA/IRN:JHROUSE,JR.:ML

9/5/73 EXT 20574

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R 062314Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 177677

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PK, IR

SUBJECT: IRANIAN HELICOPTERS TO PAKISTAN

1. FOR TEHRAN. IN VIEW OF INFORMATION FURNISHED REFTTEL, WE CONCUR THERE NO NEED AT PRESENT TO QUERY GOVT OF IRAN DIRECTLY. HOWEVER, WE STILL BELIEVE IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR IRANIANS TO INFORM GOVT OF INDIA OF DEPLOYMENT, AND HOPE YOU WILL FIND OCCASION TO CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE SUCH ACTION.

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2. FOR DELHI. SHOULD INDIAN OFFICIALS ASK ABOUT DEPLOY-

MENT OF IRANIAN HELICOPTERS IN PAKISTAN YOU SHOULD ANSWER
SUBSTANTIALLY AS FOLLOWS:

USG HAS BEEN INFORMED BY GOVERNMENT OF IRAN OF TEMPORARY
DEPLOYMENT OF SMALL NUMBER OF HELICOPTERS TO BALUCHISTAN AT
REQUEST OF GOP. HELICOPTERS REMAIN UNDER IRANIAN CONTROL
AND MANNED BY IRANIAN CREWS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT HELICOPTERS
ARE BEING USED ONLY IN LOGISTICS AND SUPPORT ROLE CARRYING
MEN AND EQUIPMENT TO INACCESSIBLE AREAS IN BALUCHISTAN.
UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES DEPLOYMENT DOES NOT VIOLATE ANY
COMMITMENT IRAN HAS TO USG REGARDING USE OF THIS EQUIPMENT.
IRAN, OF COURSE, HAS SUBSTANTIAL INTEREST IN ASSISTING
PAKISTAN IN PRESERVING LAW AND ORDER IN BALUCHISTAN WITH
WHICH IT HAS LONG AND DIFFICULT-TO-POLICE FRONTIER. SINCE
INDIA HAS EXPRESSED SIMILAR INTEREST IN PRESERVATION OF PAK
UNITY, WE ASSUME THIS INTERNAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE IRAN
PROVIDING SHOULD CREATE NO PROBLEM FOR DELHI. SHOULD
INDIANS RAISE QUESTION OF HELICOPTER ARMAMENTS YOU SHOULD
SAY THAT THEY ARE LIGHTLY ARMED FOR DEFENSIVE PURPOSE AND
ARE NOT ATTACK HELICOPTERS OR GUNSHIPS. IF INDIANS DESIRE
FURTHER DETAILS YOU SHOULD SUGGEST THEY APPROACH IRAN
DIRECTLY.

3. PLEASE KEEP DEPARTMENT INFORMED OF ANY DEVELOPMENT. RUSH

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